

# The TAMING of INDIA

by  
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## Congressional Notes

## Taft Favors Liability Act

RECOMMENDS FINDING OF COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION.

Would Cost Railroads 25 Per Cent More Than Under Present System, to Benefit of Injured.

Washington, Feb. 20.—President Taft transmitted to congress a special message on the report of a board appointed two years ago to investigate the subject of employers' liability and workmen's compensation. The message follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of the Employers' Liability Board, created by the act approved June 25, 1910, "To make a thorough investigation of the subject of employers' liability and workmen's compensation, and to submit a report through the President to the Congress of the United States."

The commission recommends a carefully-drawn bill, entitled, "A bill to provide an exclusive remedy and compensation for the injured man or woman in disability or death, to employees of common carriers by railroads engaged in interstate commerce, or in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes."

This bill works out in detail a compensation for accidental injuries to employees of common carriers in interstate railroad business, on the theory of insuring each employee against the results of injury received in the course of the employment, without reference to his contributory negligence, and without any of the rules obtaining in the common law limiting the liability of the employer in such cases. The only case in which compensation is to be allowed by the act is where the injury or death of the employee is occasioned by his willful intention to bring about the injury or death of himself or of another, or when the injury results from his intentional willful act.

It is unnecessary to go into the details of the bill. They are, however, most admirably worked out. They provide for a medical and hospital service for the injured man or woman, and for the payment of the cost of the injury to the employees, where such injury is not obviously given by the accident itself, the issue of the recovery by agreement, if not by agreement, by an official adjuster, to be confirmed by the court, and if a jury is demanded, to be passed on by a jury. The amount of recovery is regulated in proportion to the wages received and the more or less serious character of the injury where death does not ensue, specific provision being made for particular injuries, in so far as they can be specified. The compensation is to be made in the form of annual payments for a number of years or for life. The fees to be paid to attorneys are specifically limited by the act. The remedies offered are exclusive of any other remedies.

The statistical investigation seems to show that under this act the cost to the railroads would be perhaps 25 per cent more than the total cost which they now incur.

The report of the commission has been very able and satisfactory. The investigations have been most thorough, and the discussion of the constitutional questions which have arisen in respect to the validity of the bill is of the highest merit. The bill, of course, occurs. In the first place, the question arises whether under the provisions of the bill the common law will be considered to be a regulation of interstate and foreign commerce. That seems to be already settled by the decision of the Supreme Court in the *Employers' Liability* case. The second question is whether the bill is a regulation of interstate and foreign commerce, and the answer is, of course, in the affirmative.

Democratic members of the house committee on postoffices and post roads have agreed to incorporate in the appropriation bill provisions for the establishment of a general parcels post system. The unanimous vote of the house committee on rivers and harbors makes \$1,667,000 available after June 30 for expenditure upon the plan for a permanent six-foot channel in the Missouri river from Kansas City to the mouth.

Senator Heyburn of Idaho wants to know how many Apache Indians are held prisoners of war at Fort Sill, Okla., and how many are known to have been engaged in hostilities or to have committed acts of violence against the United States. The senator has introduced a resolution calling for this information from the war department.

Information as to the existence of a smelter trust is asked of the attorney general in a resolution introduced by Representative Martin of Colorado.

A bill that would create a bureau of tariff statistics, as a substitute for the present tariff board, was introduced by Representative Peters (D.), of Massachusetts, a member of the ways and means committee. The bureau would be under the direction and control of the ways and means committee, instead of the president.

Charles P. Taft, of Cincinnati, brother of President Taft, will be subpoenaed to appear before the house committee on expenditures in the war department to testify in the investigation of the case of Paymaster Beecher B. Ray, the army officer who is virtually being investigated on a charge of political activity.

Representative Hardy of Texas, ranking Democrat on the committee on merchant marine and fisheries, introduced a resolution providing for a thorough investigation of the so-called shipping trust by that committee, of which Representative Alexander of Missouri is chairman.

The price of lead has declined four-tenths of a cent a pound since the Underwood steel tariff revision bill passed the house, according to lead producers who appeared before the senate finance committee.

Representative Hayes of California, one of the Republican insurgents of the house, made a protest in that body against what he termed unfair methods of political attack upon President Taft.

A committee of United States senators may visit the cotton mill districts of the South to make an investigation of charges made by the bureau of labor as to conditions among the mill employees. Southern members of congress have manifested much resentment over charges.

A federal commission of nine members, appointed by the president without salary, to recommend new legislation for the benefit of American industries, is proposed in a resolution introduced by Representative Wilson of Chicago.

Adj. Gen. Maloney of Tennessee urged before the house military affairs committee a bill for government acceptance of 5,000 acres of land near Tullahoma, Tenn., donated for maneuver camp for troops of Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas.

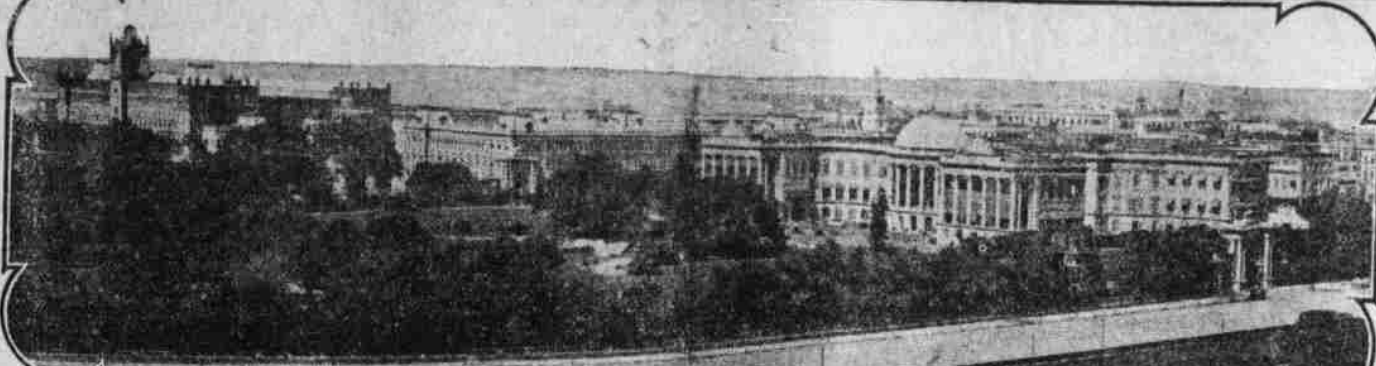
A senate investigation of Colombia's claim against the United States in connection with the Panama canal and the canal zone, and of the arbitration negotiations with Colombia, is called for in a resolution introduced by Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska.

Customer: Confound you! That's a piece of my ear.  
Barber: Only a small bit, sir; not sufficient to affect the hair's—London Opinion.

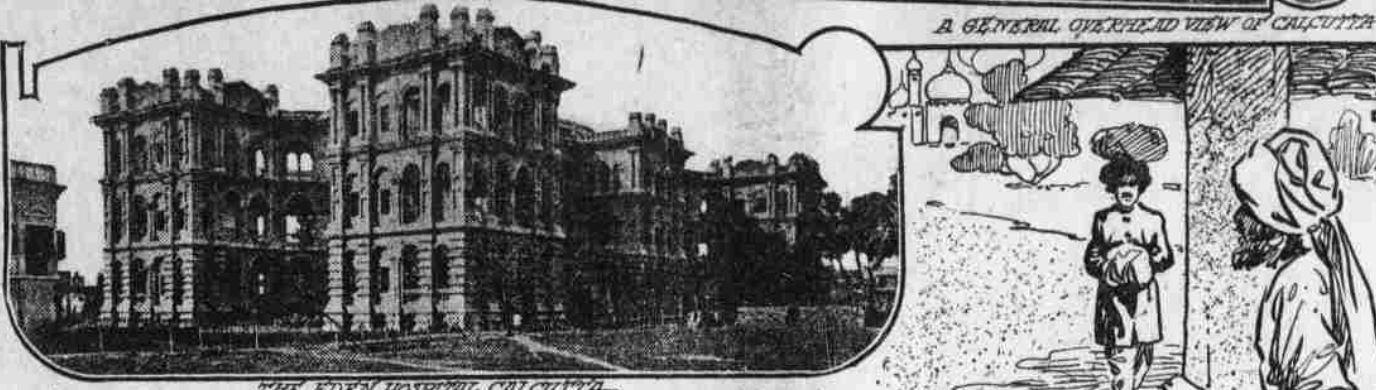
HE guns which fired a parting salute to King George in Bombay harbor recently, closed a chapter in Indian history. Has the unprecedented visit of the king-emperor been a success? Will the astonishing changes in Indian administration which he announced at the Durbar prove to be, as some think, a masterpiece of statesmanship, or has England made a colossal blunder, which will imperil her position in that Asiatic empire which she has governed so successfully for more than a hundred years?

These are questions which Indians and Englishmen alike are asking. Lord Curzon, Lord Minto and others have announced that they will bring the matter up in the house of lords as soon as parliament meets again. Mr. Asquith has given assurances that it will receive due consideration in the commons. While no one professes to regard the announcements made by the king as anything but final, there seems to be a growing realization of the gravity of the changes, which at the time of their announcement were somewhat overshadowed by the pomp and pageantry of the great Durbar.

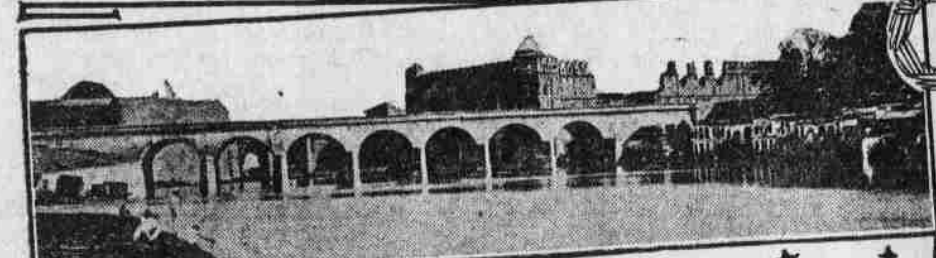
Details of the changes are now available, and it appears that the transfer of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi is only part—and not necessarily the most important part—of a far-reaching scheme of provincial readjustment



A GENERAL OVERHEAD VIEW OF CALCUTTA.



THE EDEN HOSPITAL, CALCUTTA.



THE JUTY OF SALIMGHUR AND BRIDGE AT DELHI.

which will affect 82,000,000 human beings and an area as large as that of France or Germany. The province of Bengal, which was partitioned by Lord Curzon in 1905, against the violent protest of its people, and which has been the headquarters of the sedition in India ever since, is to be reunited. The great divisions of Behar, Chota Nagpur and Orissa, which now belong to Bengal, although their populations are distinct in race and language, will be detached from Bengal and form a new province, under the control of a lieutenant governor and council. Assam is to be separately administered by a chief commissioner, as was the case prior to 1905. Lastly, the province of Bengal is to be raised to the rank of a presidency (after the example of Madras and Bombay) with a governor from England appointed by the king.

It is hardly an exaggeration to say that no such sweeping administrative change has taken place since the British crown took over the government of the country from the East India company at the close of the mutiny in 1858. As to the motives which prompted the move there is a conflict of opinion. The nationalists regard it as a victory for their cause. They consider that the modification of the partition of Bengal—which the English authorities have repeatedly declared would never be altered—is a confession of weakness on the part of the government, and some of the leaders of the unrest are bold enough to say that the government transferred the capital to Delhi because Calcutta had got too hot to hold it. On the other hand, the dispatches which have passed between Simla and London, which have now been made public, contain an array of practical arguments in favor of the change, which successfully dispose of any theory that the government was driven to the measure as the result of seditious agitation. In less troublous times the move would seem justified on plain administrative grounds. As it is, it must be considered as a bold experiment, which is admirable in theory, but which in practice can only be justified by success.

Curiously enough, its first effect has been precisely the opposite of what was expected. It was thought that the Mohammedans would hail with joy the establishment of the central government in the ancient capital of the Moghul emperors. On the contrary, they have been the first to denounce the arrangement, declaring with true Indian perversity that sentimental considerations mean nothing to them in comparison with the loss of their political power in the abolition of the province of Eastern Bengal. It is not the Mohammedans, but their ancestral foes, the Rajputs, who welcome the establishment of the capital within easy reach of their territory. The Bengalis, too, who were expected to resent the loss of prestige to Calcutta involved in the transfer, have declared that they are more than compensated by the wished-for union of the Bengal people. The Hindus in Eastern Bengal have been lighting bonfires for a month past in celebration of the event. So far as can be ascertained the inhabitants of the newly created province of Behar and Orissa are pleased at their release from Bengal domination. Bombay, the Punjab and the United Provinces are sensible of the advantages that will accrue to them for geographical reasons. The rest of India is indifferent.

Delhi is regarded by the government as a better place for a capital than Calcutta, because of its historic traditions, central location, and better climate, which will enable the viceroy and his staff to reside there for all but four months of the year. On the other hand, it is more removed from the commercial interests and active life of modern India. Europeans in Calcutta have not hesitated in declaring that it will be little better than a "Simla of the Plains." The rearrangement of the provinces will make for greater administrative efficiency, though that again is criticized on the ground that the modification of the partition of Bengal is a useless concession to an agitation that was already practically dead, while it will undo all the good work which has been started in the backward

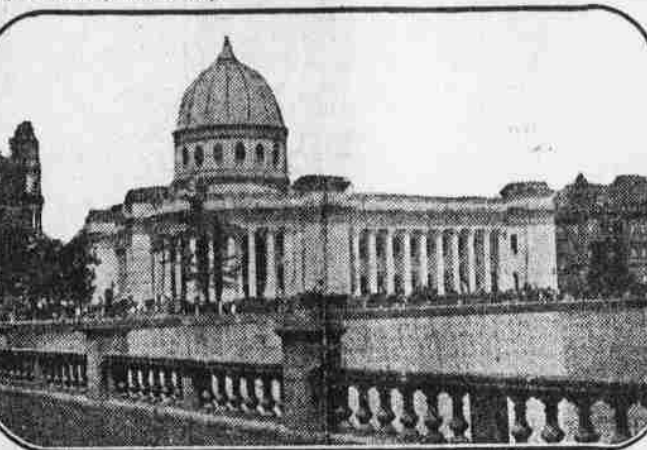
districts of Eastern Bengal. The government denies this.

The announcement of the great changes has had at least one effect that is already apparent; it has immensely impressed Hindus and Mohammedans alike with the power of the emperor. Although King George stated at the Durbar that he was acting on the advice of his ministers, this seems to have been ignored by the mass of his subjects, who felt that here was a ruler indeed, whose slightest whim was law, and who could change at a word the foundations of government and the established order of generations. I suppose that few official announcements have ever been more dramatic. Perhaps a dozen men out of India's 300,000,000 were in the secret, and to the rest the declaration came with the surprising force of a revelation.

It is precisely for this reason that anxiety is felt over the ultimate reception of the proposals by the Indian people. When the awe caused by the visible presence of the sovereign has passed away, it is feared that fierce opposition may break out in many quarters. The original partition of Bengal was thought at the time to be an innocent measure, but it stirred up disloyalty in half of India, turned two provinces into hotbeds of sedition and provoked a series of anarchistic crimes which has not yet come to an end. The present changes claim to be purely administrative, but the peculiarly secret and arbitrary way in which they were determined may prove an excuse for new discontent. More than one English official who was at the Durbar expressed the opinion that the next year or two would see another wave of anarchy and sedition incomparably greater than anything India has yet known. The government does not hold this view. It remains to be seen who is right.

Two important facts, in any case, have been made clear by the publication of the dispatches. The first is that India is at last being governed once more from India and not from London, as was the case when Lord Minto was viceroy and Lord Morley secretary of state. The entire scheme for the change of capital and redistribution of provinces originated at Simla, and was embodied in a dispatch from the central government to Lord Curzon, who accepted the proposal without a change. It would be interesting to know whether Lord Hardinge or his council are principally responsible for the undertaking. If the former proves to be the case, current views of the new viceroy will have to be revised. It argues more than a little courage and initiative in a man who has been in India barely a year to risk his official reputation on such a hazardous measure.

The other fact disclosed by the dispatches is an important intimation of England's policy regarding the future government of India. Lord Hardinge and his associates state in so many



THE DELHI INSTITUTE, ONE OF THE EXISTING MODERN BUILDINGS IN THE OLD MOGHUL CAPITAL.

words that the only solution of the Indian situation lies in the practical autonomy of the provincial governments. In other words, the old bureaucratic regime, which began with the first victories of Clive and the taking over of the Bengal diwani by Warren Hastings is confessed at least to be a failure. Decentralization is to be the watchword from this time onward. A new India is gradually to be formed, on the model on Canada. It will consist of a group of confederated states, financially independent and legislating for themselves in local matters, but subject to the control of the central government in imperial affairs. In name there will probably be little change, for the government of India's slow to move and conservative, yet this is, baldly stated, the significant of the plan. At the same time a further extension of the principle of self-government is indicated. To judge from the words of the dispatch, the central authorities are at last alive to the fact that the government of India must not only be for the Indians, but to a large extent by them, if it hopes to endure. Lord Hardinge's words foreshadow a speedy enlargement of the elective element in the legislative councils and are the most important pronouncement in this respect that has been heard since Lord Morley made public his declaration to grant his famous reforms.

The general effect of the king's visit seems to have been strengthening the loyalty of the Indian people to a degree that surpassed expectations. The wonderful spectacle of the Durbar made a profound impression, and when the king and queen later stood on the wall of the fort in Delhi and received the homage of an adoring crowd of more than 100,000 natives, it is said that the scene was indescribable. Gray-bearded men bowed themselves to the ground and others wept for joy and mothers held up their babies above their heads to see and be blessed by the emperor. An incident that happened at the laying of the first stones of the new capital gained the king a great reputation among the people. As he was about to touch one of the stones with his golden trowel he noticed that it was not quite straight, and asked the master mason to bring it into better alignment. The ceremony was stopped for a few minutes while this was done. The story spread like wildfire through the bazaars, and was accepted as an omen by the natives, who now firmly credit their emperor with almost supernatural powers of discernment and a determination to establish the foundations of his city so surely that it will last through all the ages to come.

No seditious attempts were made on the life of the king, although the murder of a police inspector in Eastern Bengal the night before the Durbar gave eloquent testimony to the fact that disloyalty still exists in some sections of the population. The release or remission of sentence of over 150 political prisoners was a move of the king's, which added to his popularity, while his concessions to the native army and the grant of money for the extension of ed-

ucation were deeply appreciated. It is safe to say that if the new reforms are followed by a further extension of representative government King George will be regarded by the mass of his Indian subjects as one of the best beloved emperors that India has ever known.

Hindu and Mohammedan sentiment have for ages marked out Delhi as the real native capital, for has not Delhi, no doubt, mainly from its geographical position, become the capital of every invading and conquering dynasty as it swept over

Hindustan from the northwest from time immemorial? To prove this the traveler has only to wander along the sandy banks of the river Jumna, and also to realize the mortality of empires, for one can clearly see, as in Rome, cities built upon the ruins of cities, and in addition the relics of many a Hindu capital of bygone ages.

The Delhi of today is of course the mighty city of Shah Jehan, with its seven gates and as many arches. The Delhi of the future will be built on the site of the recent Durbar camp. This is situated some miles from the site of the old Moghul capital, as the famous mutiny ridge camp separated the latter from the former. It will have the advantage of being built on fresh ground, a by no means trifling detail in India, where sanitation is of paramount importance.

From the point of view of climate, also, there is no doubt that Delhi possesses great advantages over Calcutta. To the newcomer in India Calcutta is described as having one hot month and eleven hot months, whereas the cold weather of Delhi is delightful.

Another important feature of the proposed change is that the position of Delhi will remove the headquarters of the government from the environment of what is known in India as the Bengali element. This type of super-educated Indian native has undoubtedly been responsible in no small measure for the agitation caused by the partition of Bengal. This innovation was initiated by Lord Curzon and though the agitation against it was never really popular or in any sense national, yet this noisy Bengali element succeeded in raising a clamor quite out of all proportion to their actual numbers, aided as they were by the vernacular press. The further partition of Bengal, recently announced, may have the advantage of further decentralization of the unwieldy machine of teeming millions already divided by Curzon's action.

Another great advantage in the change of the capital is the fact that Delhi is undoubtedly much more in the center of the fighting races than Calcutta. The great native princes much more easily can assemble there. The Shikhs and the Rajput princes are nearby—the Maharajah of Kashmir, the Gaekwar of Baroda, the important Nizam of Hyderabad, and the head of that well governed state of Mysore, are mostly at no great distance away, and these all undoubtedly will welcome the change of capital.

## LUXURY.

Jim, who worked in a garage, had just declined Mr. Smith's invitation to ride in his new car.

"What's the matter, Jim," asked Mr. Smith; "are you sick?"  
"No, sah," he replied. "Tain't that—I done los' five dollars, sah. I jes' natchrly got tuh sit an' grieve."—Success.

## WOULDN'T PART WITH "CAT"

Pathetic Exception Made by Sir Walter Scott When He Was Giving Up His Fortune.

Nearly everyone thinks that he knows what a cat is. He is familiar with the household pet; he has read of the instrument with which obedience to orders used to be enforced in the navy; he may be aware that in South America the jaguar is familiarly spoken of as "the cat" and so may

dream that his knowledge embraces all members of the family. Nevertheless, Sir Walter Scott's cat does not belong to any one of these divisions.

It was in 1826 that accumulating difficulties constrained Sir Walter to sell his house in Castle street, Edinburgh. When instructing his agent to offer the house and all its contents for sale by auction, he made one pathetic exception.

"I wish," he wrote, "to save a memento which I called a cat, with a number of legs, so that, turn-

ing which way it will, it stands upright. It was my mother's, and she used to have the toast set on it before the fire, and it is not worth three-pence of any one's money."

To these words Sir Walter appended a pen-and-ink sketch which does little honor to his skill in drawing. It represents an object more like a double starfish than anything known to nature. The tender concern with which he regarded this unattractive relic reveals one of the most delightful aspects of his delightful character.

Here was a man who had been conspicuously a spoiled child of fortune. He had been the darling of a luxurious and exclusive society. He had made a fortune, had enjoyed it as he made it, and had shown both taste and generosity in spending it. And now, when the storms of financial troubles were beating their hardest, the only item of his possessions that he strove to save was a relic that reminded him of his mother's love and care.

Houses and lands, horses and cattle, plate and pictures, and books and manuscripts; all the modern apparatus of comfort and luxury, and all the antiques and curiosities that he had collected from the deserted keeps and ruined abbeys of Scotland were freely sacrificed when duty and honor called. But the one priceless treasure that he would not suffer to pass into a stranger's hands was a misshapen contrivance for keeping toast warm, "not worth three-pence of anyone's money," but precious because it had belonged to his mother, and had been used by her.—Youth's Companion.